

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4617

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER

SUMMARY: IN ITS AUGUST 23 EDITION, BONN'S "GENERAL-
ANZEIGER" PUBLISHED A LONG INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER GENSCHER--PROBABLY THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE HE
HAS GIVEN SINCE TAKING OVER HIS PRESENT JOB. THE
MINISTERS ANSWERS CONFIRM HIS INTENSE INTEREST IN AND
SUPPORT FOR WESTERN EUROPEAN INTEGRATION, HIS /
CONVICTION AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE AND THE RELATIONSHIP OF EUROPE WITH THE US, AND
HIS COOL ALTHOUGH ESSENTIALLY POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD
EASTERN POLICY. GENSCHER BELIEVES THAT THE IMBROGLIO
IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN EMPHASIZES THE NEED
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TO TIE THE NORTH MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL IN AS CLOSELY

AS POSSIBLE TO WESTERN EUROPE AND HE FAVORS FULL EC MEMBERSHIP FOR GREECE AND PORTUGAL WHEN THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS ARE MET. END SUMMARY.

1. WESTERN EUROPE. GENSCHER ASSESSES VERY POSITIVELY THE RESULTS SO FAR ACHIEVED THROUGH EC POLITICAL CO-OPERATION. HE CITES AS EXAMPLES THE COORDINATION OF EC MEMBER STATES POLICY IN RESPECT TO CSCE, THE DIALOGUE WITH ARAB COUNTRIES, AND THEIR COOPERATION IN FACE OF THE CURRENT CYPRUS CRISIS. THIS COOPERATION, IN HIS VIEW, HAS ENLARGED RATHER THAN RESTRICTED THE FRG'S FREEDOM OF ACTION IN FOREIGN POLICY SINCE "WHEN WE SUCCEED IN PUTTING THROUGH OUR VIEWS IN THIS FRAMEWORK THEY ACQUIRE A GREATER WEIGHT" THAN THEY WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE. AS FOR THE STAGES OF PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNION, GENSCHER THINKS IT IS TOO EARLY TO BEGIN DISCUSSING SPECIFIC "MODELS" SINCE THAT WOULD ONLY MAKE THE PROCESS MORE DIFFICULT. HE REGARDS THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF AN ALTERNATING PRESIDENCY AS A GOOD BEGINNING. MORE "CONCENTRATION AND HARMONISATION" ARE NECESSARY IN THE INDIVIDUAL EUROPEAN MINISTERIAL COUNCILS, AND THE COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS HAS AN IMPORTANT COORDINATING ROLE TO PLAY. GERMANY IS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN A EUROPEAN SUMMIT THIS YEAR, BUT IT MUST BE CAREFULLY PREPARED AND "A GREAT DEAL MUST HAPPEN" BY LATE FALL IF IT IS TO BE A SUCCESS. "IF WE COULD AGREE ON THE BASIC DATA FOR A COMMON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICY OF THE PARTNER STATES, NOT JUST IN THE FORM OF A DECLARATION BUT AS A BINDING GUIDE TO ACTION, THIS WOULD IN ITSELF BE A GREAT SUCCESS,"

2. GENSCHER DEVOTES A LONG ANSWER TO THE PROBLEMS OF ITALY, STRESSING NOT ONLY ITALY'S IMPORTANCE AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNITY BUT ALSO ITS STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR EUROPE. HE SAYS THE FRG HAS NEVER CONCEALED ITS READINESS, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, TO HELP. HE EXPECTS CONSIDERABLY GREATER CLARITY IN THE SITUATION AS A RESULT OF THE FORTHCOMING MEETING BETWEEN SCHMIDT AND RUMOR. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE GREAT EFFORTS OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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TO DEAL WITH ITS PROBLEMS, AND HE STATES THAT "WHAT WE OTHER EUROPEANS DO FOR ITALY WE DO FOR OURSELVES, BECAUSE THE FUNCTIONING CAPACITY OF THE COMMUNITY IS A CONDITION OF OUR OWN ECONOMIC WELL-BEING."

3. COMMENTING ON THE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, GENSCHER EXPRESSES THE VIEW THAT NATO'S ABILITY TO ACT EFFECTIVELY HAS NOT BEEN IMPAIRED, EVEN THOUGH A CON-

FLICT BETWEEN TWO ALLIANCE PARTNERS IS A HEAVY BURDEN.
THE CYPRUS CRISIS HAS, HOWEVER, DIRECTED THE ATTENTION
OF THE EUROPEAN STATES TO THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE
NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL. "WE MUST", GENSCHER
SAYS, "GIVE THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED THERE NEW PER-
SPECTIVES OF COOPERATION IN THE ALLIANCE AND IN THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY." ASKED WHETHER THIS MEANS THAT
HE FAVORS THE ACCEPTANCE OF GREECE AND PORTUGAL IN THE
EC, GENSCHER REPLIES: "YES, OF COURSE, IF THAT IS DE-
SIRED BY ALL CONCERNED AND IF THE POLITICAL AND

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ARE FULFILLED. IT IS AFTET ALL A

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVE OF THE COMMUNITY TO WIN OVER AS MANY EUROPEAN STATES AS POSSIBLE FOR COOPERATION." GENSCHER STRESSES THE NEED TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT FOR THE RENEWAL OF DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND SAYS THE FRG IS EXAMINING THE POSSIBILITIES OPEN TO IT IN THIS REGARD.

4. COMMENTING GENERALLY ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF FRG FOREIGN POLICY, GENSCHER POINTS OUT THAT THE WESTERN ALLIANCE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FRG SECURITY AND THEREWITH FOR ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION IN FOREIGN POLICY. THE PRESENCE OF THE UNITED STATES IN UNCLASSIFIED

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EUROPE IS AN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL -- ELEMENT OF THAT POLICY. WHAT IS BEING DEFENDED IN EUROPE IS NOT ONLY THE SECURITY OF EUROPE ITSELF BUT THAT OF THE US AS WELL, A POINT WHICH GENSCHER SAYS HAS JUST BEEN RESTATED WITH ALL POSSIBLE CLARITY BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN THIS PROCESS. IT IS EASIER FOR THE US TO DEAL WITH A EUROPE WHICH IS IN AGREEMENT WITH ITSELF. GENSCHER'S IMPRESSION IS THAT PRESIDENT FORD TAKES A VERY POSITIVE VIEW OF EUROPEAN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE UNITY, BOTH IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SPHERES. MOREOVER EUROPE OCCUPIES AN IMPORTANT PLACE IN SECRETARY KISSINGERS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A REALISTIC GEO-POLITICAL BALANCE OF POWER.

5. THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE POLICY, IN GENSCHER'S VIEW. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS BETWEEN REALISM AND ILLUSION IN DEALING WITH EASTERN EUROPE, AND THE FRG WANTS A REALISTIC POLICY. DETENTE POLICY CANNOT CREATE SECURITY, WHICH DEPENDS ON THE EXISTENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE. HOWEVER, IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE ALLIANCE TO HAVE CONTROVERSIES REMOVED AND TENSIONS REDUCED, JUST AS IT IS IN ITS INTEREST TO ACHIEVE AN INCREASE IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEOPLES. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR UNCOORDINATED UNILATERAL ACTION IN THE FRG'S PURSUIT OF DETENTE. THE FRG'S DETENTE POLICY IS DEFINED BY THE FACT THAT ITS SECURITY DEPENDS ON THE ALLIANCE AND THAT ITS FUTURE LIES IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. JUST AS THE FRG FOUND IT NECESSARY TO COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE EARLIER "TREATY-MAKING" PHASE OF OSTPOLITIK WITH ITS WESTERN ALLIES, SO THIS CLOSE COORDINATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED IN THE CURRENT PHASE OF APPLYING THE TREATIES THAT HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

6 GENSCHER STRESSES AT SEVERAL POINTS THE KEY ROLE

WHICH BERLIN PLAYS AS A BELWETHER OF DETENTE, AND STATES THAT HE INTENDS TO EMPHASIZE THIS POINT IN HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH GROMYKO. HE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED WITH NATO ALLIES AT OTTAWA THAT THE ALLIANCE WILL CONTINUE TO MEASURE UNCLASSIFIED

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DETENTE AGAINST THE CONDITION OF BERLIN AND ON THE ACCESS ROUTES TO BERLIN.

7. WITH REGARD TO CSCE, GENSCHEER REEMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE TO THE FRG OF ENSURING THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFUL CHANGES OF BORDERS, SINCE "THE SOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL QUESTION REMAINS AN UNCHANGEABLE GOAL OF GERMAN POLICY." THIS PRINCIPLE IS OF IMPORTANCE ALSO FOR THE FUTURE POLITICAL UNION OF EUROPE. CASH

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